



September 13, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: New Hope Telephone Company (ID# 805731)
Contributor Appeal

Ref: FCC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This letter is a follow up to an appeal that was sent to the FCC electronically on July 3, 2002. I would like to know, if possible, the status of our appeal. I have enclosed copies of the original documents for reference.

Your time and consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Hensley".

Laurie Hensley
Secretary/Treasurer
New Hope Telephone Company
New Hope, Virginia

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New Hope Telephone Company

June 25, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: New Hope Telephone Company (ID#805731)
Contributor Appeal

Ref: FCC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is being filed to appeal the May 6, 2002 decision of the administrator of the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) to deny the appeal of New Hope Telephone Company for recovery of Universal Service Fund contributions paid in error in calendar year 2000.

New Hope Telephone Company is a small, rural, member owned company serving less than one thousand lines in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. By its size, New Hope does not maintain a large staff which is knowledgeable in many facets of regulatory reporting. New Hope makes every reasonable effort to remain cognizant of these requirements and comply fully with them. However, the case at issue is one which simply was overlooked.

Since the inception of the USF requirements, New Hope had been a *de minimus* reporting company which is defined as having an annual contribution of less than \$10,000 (Part 54, Section 54.708) and was thus exempt from reporting. This fact can be verified by USAC records. However, due to required changes to the USF formula effective January 1, 2000, which were not applied correctly by New Hope, the reporting changes from the *de minimus* status to a contributor status of \$29,550 for the year 2000.

New Hope recognized this problem in February 2002 and immediately began steps to recover the overpayments. However, due to a procedural requirement of USAC which limits the opportunity for filing revised data and truing-up any errors, the periods outside this window were denied. New Hope, therefore, respectfully requests that the FCC grant its appeal to extend the opportunity to revise data and allow New Hope the recovery of its revenues.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Hensley
Secretary/Treasurer
New Hope Telephone Company

June 25, 2002

Cc: USAC Administrator

Kelly Chapman, President New Hope Telephone Company

Anita Cheng, FCC Common Carrier Bureau

James Shook, FCC Enforcement Bureau

Lisa Tubbs, USAC Manager Revenue Administration

RE: NEW HOPE TELEPHONE COMPANY (ID# 805731) CONTRIBUTOR APPEAL REF: FCC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21							
ORIGINAL FILING FOR 2000 499-A				REVISED FILING FOR 2000 499-A			
				these figures represent the corrected revision that we are asking be processed			
LINE 419 A	LINE 419 D	LINE 419 E		LINE 419 A	LINE 419 D	LINE 419 E	
Total revenue	Interstate	International		Total rev.	Interstate	International	
\$848,375.00	\$674,189.00	\$172,207.00		\$654,338.00	\$254,653.00	\$-	
				Line 420a	line 420d	line 420e	
				total	interstate		
				\$315,917.00	\$38,521.00	\$-	

**Federal Communications Commission**

**The FCC Acknowledges Receipt of Comments From ...
New Hope Telephone Company
...and Thank You for Your Comments**

Your Confirmation Number is: 2002-4-116597

Date Received: Jul 3 2002

Docket: 96-45

Number of Files Transmitted: 1

File Name	File Type	File Size (bytes)
APPEAL	Microsoft Word	1415169

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